

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 00236 181935Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 HA-05 /080 W
-----046949 181938Z /43

O R 181855Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2055
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 0236

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, ELAB, PA
SUBJECT: LABOR LEADERS TALK WITH TWO DETAINED CHRISTIAN TRADE
UNIONISTS

REF: ASUNCION 210

1. WITH A "PERMIT TO VISIT" SIGNED BY INTERIOR MINISTER MONTANARO WHICH HAD BEEN OBTAINED BY THE CONFEDERACION PARAGUAYA DE TRABAJADORES (CPT), MIKE BOGGS, AFL-CIO'S VICE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS; MIKE HAMMER, AIFLD REP IN BRAZIL; GUS TORRESLAZO, AIFLD REP IN PARAGUAY; EMBASSY OFFICER AND TWO CPT OFFICIALS TALKED WITH TWO OF THE 19 DETAINED CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS JANUARY 18 MORNING. THE TWO WERE RODOLFO ROMERO, A PARAGUAYAN CITIZEN RESIDENT IN BUENOS AIRES WHO HAD COME AS AN INCASUR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC SEMINAR WHICH WAS RAIDED, AND FLORENCIO RIVEROS, MEMBER OF A UNION AFFILIATED TO THE CPT. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN THE OFFICE OF A PRISON OFFICIAL TO WHICH THE TWO DETAINEES WERE BROUGHT FROM INSIDE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASUNCI 00236 181935Z

THE PRISON. PRISON OFFICIALS AND PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WERE PRESENT DURING THE MEETING.

2. ROMERO DID MOST OF THE TALKING AND SAID THAT A) THE PRISONERS HAD NO QUARREL WITH FACT THAT THEY WERE INVESTIGATED BY THE POLICE FOLLOWING THE COMPLAINT OF THE SALESIAN FATHER; B) THE POLICE HAD TOLD THEM THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM

FOLLOWING THE INVESTIGATION; C) THE LABOR MINISTER HAD NOW SAID THERE WAS NOTHING AGAINST THEM (THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THIS BY THE VISITORS); D) THEY CONSIDER IT UNJUST THAT THEY SHOULD BE HELD PRISONERS FOR AT LEAST A MONTH WHEN EVERYONE AGREED THERE WAS NOTHING AGAINST THEM. WHEN ASKED QUIETLY IF HE HAD BEEN TORTURED, ROMERO AVOIDED THE QUESTION BUT LATER, WHEN ASKED IF HE HAD BEEN TREATED PROPERLY, HE SAID HE HAD BEEN "SINCE HE HAD COME TO EMBOSCADA".

3. IN PRESS INTERVIEW FOLLOWING VISIT TO EMBOSCADA, AFL-CIO'S MIKE BOGGS MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS: A) THAT THE AMERICANS ARE MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER OF THE INNOCENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS; B) THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE CPT TO OBTAIN THEIR IMMEDIATE RELEASE; C) THAT THE AFL-CIO CONSIDERED THE CPT'S SUSPENSION BY THE ICFTU AND ORIT AS UNFAIR; D) THEY WOULD ASK THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF ORIT, DEL PINO, TO VISIT PARAGUAY TO RECONSIDER THE SUSPENSION; E) THEY HAD ESTABLISHED A SOLIDARITY FUND FOR THE IMPRISONED WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHICH HAD ALREADY RECEIVED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE AFL-CIO, THE BRAZILIAN PTTI, AND URUGUAYAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION AND THE BANK WORKERS UNION IN PARAGUAY.

4. PRESS HAS GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY TO VISIT OF U.S. LABOR LEADERS AND PUBLISHED MORNING OF JANUARY 18, HEALTH AND LABOR MINISTER GONZALEZ'S STATEMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ASUNCI 00236 181935Z

NO EVIDENCE AGAINST THE CHRISTIAN TRADE UNION LEADERS. DAILY "HOY" ALSO PUBLISHED A LONG INTERVIEW WITH AIFLD'S WILLIAM DOHERTY WHOSE REMARKS WERE BOTH CRITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC REGARDING THE FREEDOM OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN PARAGUAY AND THE PLIGHT OF THE IMPRISONED TRADE UNIONISTS.

5. COMMENT: THE PUBLIC ADMISSION BY THE LABOR MINISTER THAT THE GOP HAS NO EVIDENCE OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY AGAINST THE 19 IMPRISONED TRADE UNIONISTS DEMONSTRATES HOW WEAK THE GOVERNMENT CASE IS. WE BELIEVE THE VISITS BY DOHERTY, BOGGS AND THEIR PARTY FORCED THE GOVERNMENT TO ADMIT THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT THE 19 ARE STILL IMPRISONED DEMONSTRATES THE BASIC INJUSTICE OF THE PARAGUAYAN POLICE AND COURT PROCEDURES WHICH ALLOW PEOPLE TO BE HELD WITHOUT CAUSE. THE VISIT TO EMBOSCADA BY OUTSIDERS ALSO DEMONSTRATES THE SENSITIVITY THE GOP FEELS TO INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM AND THE VALUE IT PLACES ON TRYING TO CREATE A FAVORABLE IMAGE ABROAD.
WHITE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, VISITS, PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ASUNCIO0236
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780027-0525
Format: TEL
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780152/aaaabroe.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 82bccfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ASUNCION 210
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3758609
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR LEADERS TALK WITH TWO DETAINED CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS
TAGS: SHUM, ELAB, PA, (BOGGS, MIKE), (HAMMER, MIKE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/82bccfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014